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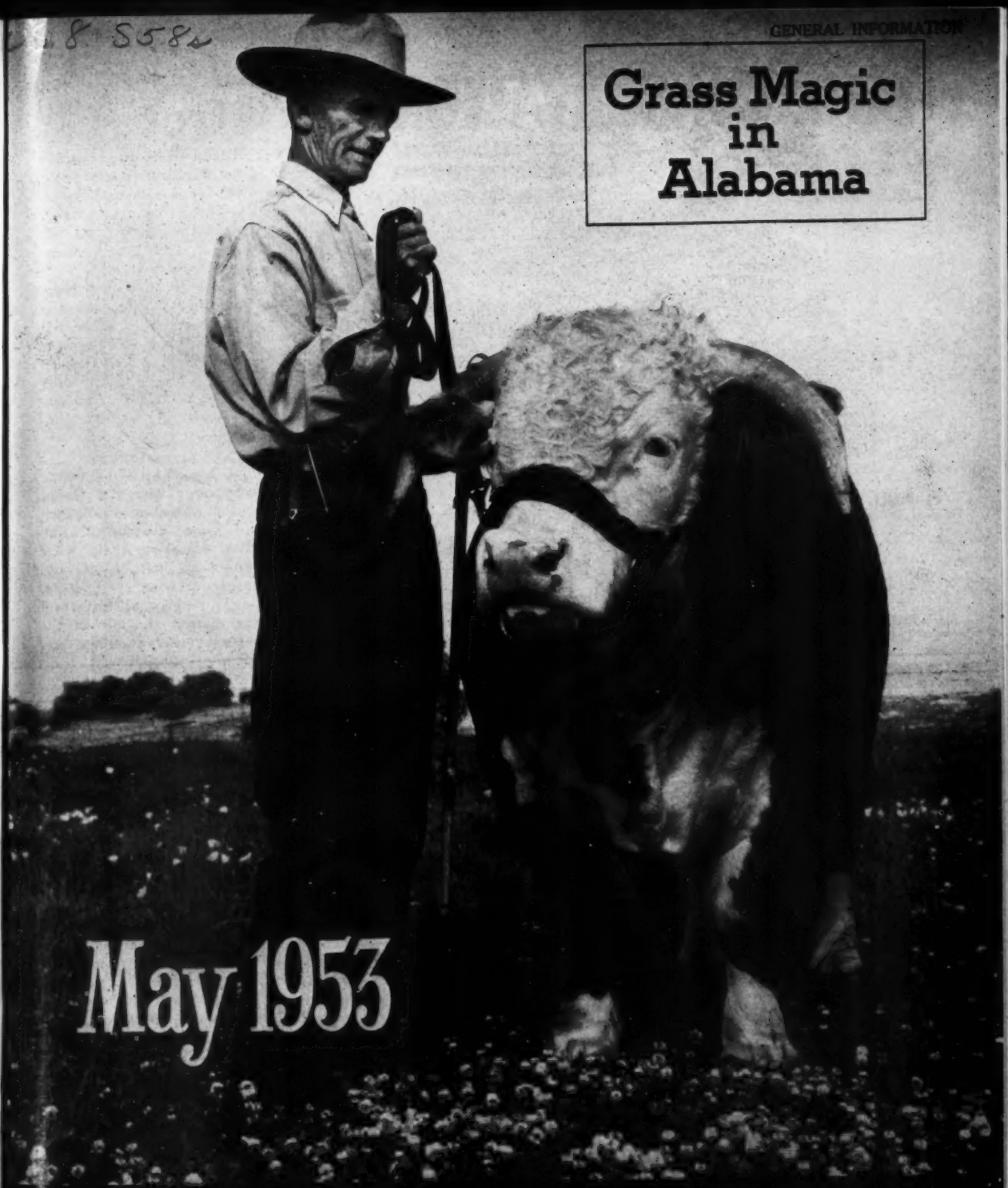
Grass Magic in Alabama



May 1953

SOIL CONSERVATION

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SOIL CONSERVATION

MAY 1953
VOL. XVIII—NO. 10

EZRA TAFT BENSON
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

ROBERT M. SALTER
CHIEF, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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★ THIS MONTH ★

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WELLINGTON BRINK
Editor

SOIL CONSERVATION is published by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for proper transaction of the public business, under approval (August 6, 1951) of the Director of the Budget. SOIL CONSERVATION supplies information for workers of the Department of Agriculture and others engaged in soil conservation.

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EMULATES SIRE.—Welborn Adams, a supervisor of the Harrison County (Ky.) Soil Conservation District for eight years, was honored in 1951 by being presented a Master Conservation Award by the Kentucky State Soil Conservation Committee. Following in his father's footsteps, his son John has won first place in the Harrison County FFA and 4-H Club Tobacco Show held at Cynthia, Ky.

John produced 2,316 pounds of tobacco per acre on contoured, terraced land on his father's 132-acre farm. The tobacco sold for $62.06 per cwt. John placed second in a tobacco-grading contest in connection with the show.

PERSONAL CAMPAIGN.—Delmar Germer, a cooperator with the Dodge County (Wis.) Soil Conservation District, has started a one-man crusade to bring soil conservation education to the rural school children in his district. He has made an enlarged drawing of his farm plan and intends to visit all the rural schools in the district to talk on the subject, "What soil conservation has done for my farm."

FRONT COVER.—The story of what has happened to Alabama's Black Belt is well symbolized in this inspiring portrait of "Real Seth" and his owner, L. Chatterton, of Greensboro, Ala. "Real Seth" was first prize bull at Demopolis and Birmingham, 1950. Chatterton lived in Montana before he saw the Black Belt. Seeing the Black Belt caused him to buy a farm there, move his herd, and establish the Montabama line. The picture was made by Hermann Postlethwaite, who also is responsible for the picture story, "Green Magic," in this issue.

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I Got Out On The Land

Flood control measures on the small Nepper watershed in Monona County, Ia. Stripcropping, channel improvement, road chute, drop inlet, all help.

An Extension worker of the University of Illinois reports on a six-months study of soil and water problems and the work of districts in meeting them.

By E. D. WALKER

DID you ever load your car with clothes and equipment and with your wife leave home for a six-months' tour of duty? I had that novel and exciting experience two years ago when I was given a half-year leave for travel in a number of states to study the problems of soil and water conservation and the methods of meeting them. In line with this assignment, I wanted especially to

1. Take a broad look at soil and water conservation problems and programs in different areas;
2. Pick up new ideas in soil conservation education;
3. See how soil conservation districts are functioning in relation to cooperating agencies;
4. View at first hand pertinent developments in research;
5. Find out how flood control projects operate most effectively.

Following a definite itinerary, my travels took me into 31 states and the District of Columbia in this country. The route covered the Southwest, the South, the Midwest, and portions of the East and New England. I visited 18 land-grant colleges, a like number of experiment stations, and inspected field work on many farms and ranches. All along the way I was in frequent touch with district, state and regional offices of the Soil Conservation Service. In addition, the journey included travel in nine states of Mexico and three eastern provinces of Canada.

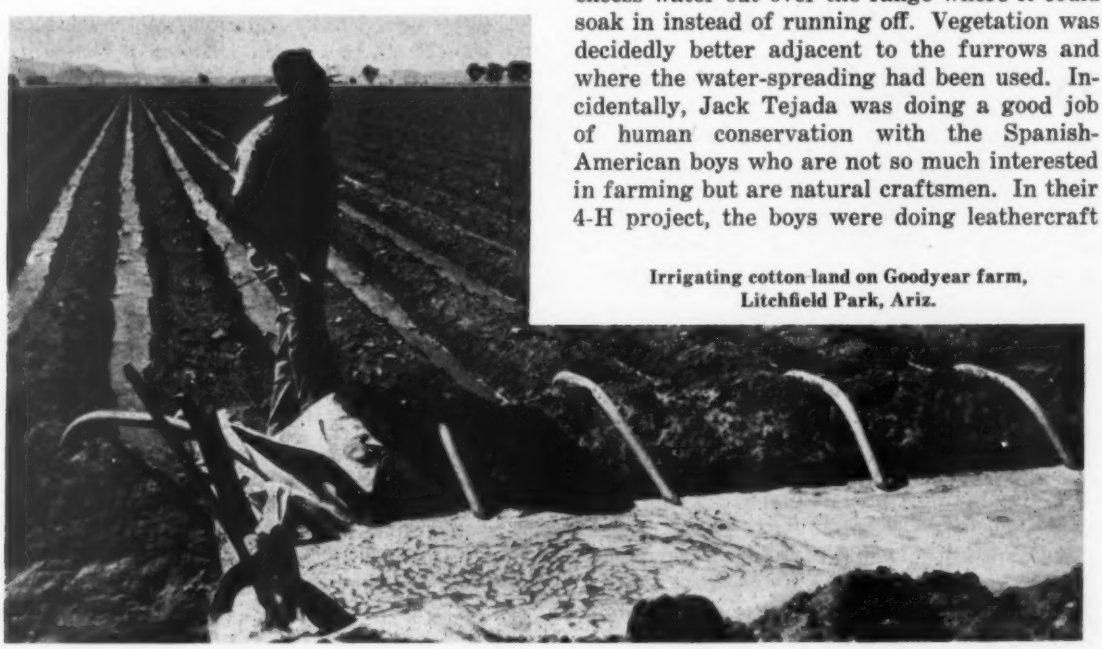
During the entire period I had the assistance and cooperation of the finest people in the world. Among these "finest people" were many Soil Conservation Service personnel ranging from conservation aides to the Chief of the Service, himself. There were also county agents, extension soil conservationists, extension specialists and other college staff members, soil conserva-

Note.—The author is extension soil conservationist, Department of Agronomy, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

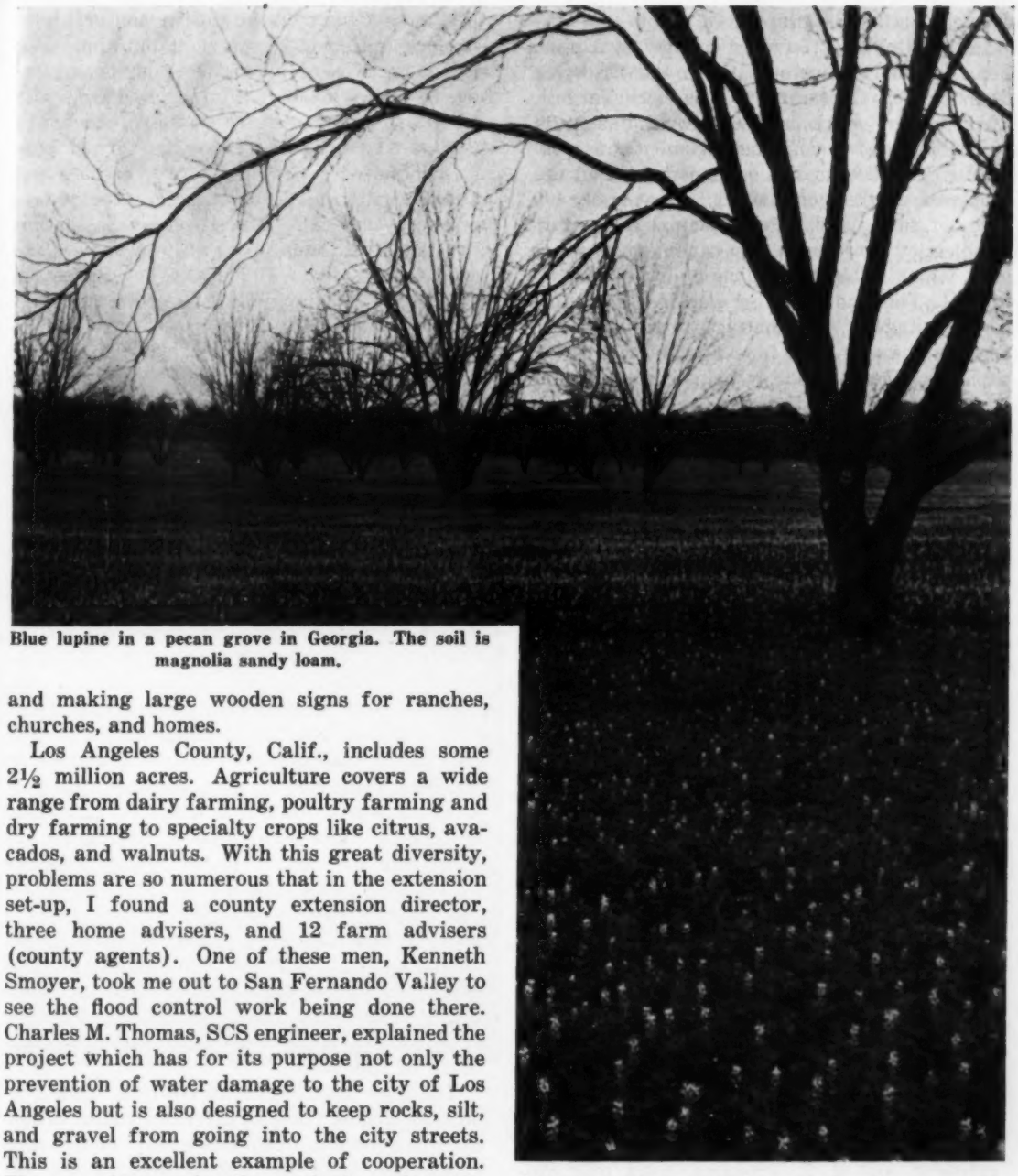
tion district directors or supervisors and other farmers and ranchers. All were most cooperative in telling me of problems, programs or accomplishments and in showing work in progress. A few examples may serve to give you a fleeting glimpse of some of the things I saw. In some cases my wife joined in the inspection of the soil conservation work. At other locations she was busy looking over the college campuses and other points of interest.

In Oklahoma the Washita river is at present a fairly normal stream, but it is tending to assume the typical western river pattern of a wide, silt-choked channel with no distinct banks and consequent frequent flooding of the adjacent bottom lands. The channel has widened two or more times in recent years and valuable land in the valley is thus being lost. It is to prevent this condition from developing further that the flood control program in that area has been started. The control work is being done on the small tributaries rather than on the main stem of the river itself. Detention reservoirs, or so-called "dry dams" are the principal structural measure being used. Jack Adair, SCS planning engineer on the Sandstone creek project which was in active progress at that time, gave me a good look at work going on there. On the 65,000-acre watershed of the Sandstone 24 reservoirs had been planned. Ten were completed and the remainder under construction. Hill farmers are urged to use seeding and controlled grazing on the range land and terracing on the cropland to reduce silting. Construction of a particular reservoir is delayed until the conservation measures on the watershed reduce the silt load to an allowable figure. Both hill and bottom land farmers in the watershed are organized into the Sandstone Watershed Flood Control Association. It is a voluntary organization which cooperates with the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service on educational work. It also secures the easements on the sites for the dams and, in cooperation with the soil conservation district and Soil Conservation Service, is responsible for maintenance.

County Agent Jack Tejada, in company with the owner, showed us all over the 10,000-acre A. J. Irwin sheep ranch at Santa Rosa, N. Mex. Despite the use of improvement practices, the ranch was carrying only one sheep to 32 acres. The range improvement measures were aimed mainly at water conservation and included contour furrows to increase the infiltration of water, ponds (tanks in that country), and diversions in the water courses to spread the excess water out over the range where it could soak in instead of running off. Vegetation was decidedly better adjacent to the furrows and where the water-spreading had been used. Incidentally, Jack Tejada was doing a good job of human conservation with the Spanish-American boys who are not so much interested in farming but are natural craftsmen. In their 4-H project, the boys were doing leathercraft



Irrigating cotton land on Goodyear farm, Litchfield Park, Ariz.



Blue lupine in a pecan grove in Georgia. The soil is magnolia sandy loam.

and making large wooden signs for ranches, churches, and homes.

Los Angeles County, Calif., includes some 2½ million acres. Agriculture covers a wide range from dairy farming, poultry farming and dry farming to specialty crops like citrus, avacados, and walnuts. With this great diversity, problems are so numerous that in the extension set-up, I found a county extension director, three home advisers, and 12 farm advisers (county agents). One of these men, Kenneth Smoyer, took me out to San Fernando Valley to see the flood control work being done there. Charles M. Thomas, SCS engineer, explained the project which has for its purpose not only the prevention of water damage to the city of Los Angeles but is also designed to keep rocks, silt, and gravel from going into the city streets. This is an excellent example of cooperation. The cost of improving the creek channels in the watershed is shared by the city of Los Angeles, the county flood control district, and the Soil Conservation Service. The soil conservation district, with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, oversees the construction work. Farmers cooperate by constructing smaller ditches in the upper parts of the watershed as group enterprises, and by applying land use and management practices on individual farms. Apparently little educational assistance had been given by the Extension Service in the

development of this project.

In the Highland Hereford country at Alpine, Tex., I found as technicians in the Brewster County Soil Conservation District, Tom J. Burlison, Jr., work unit conservationist, and R. F. Pierson, Jr., range management conservationist. The district was quite new and had 114 cooperative agreements which included only 400 acres of farm land. The principal interest in the district, therefore, is management of range land, which falls into land capability classes VI to VIII. The land is further classified according to percentage of good native range plants still remaining and is rated for its potential carrying capacity. The rancher is helped to determine the amount of stock the range should carry and is also given information on proper grazing management, which is the No. 1 conservation practice. Fencing of the range into several suitably sized fields is encouraged to make grazing management and controlled breeding possible. Ranchers have thus increased the calf crop from a low of 65 percent up to 97 percent and the weight of calves at selling time from 300 pounds to around 500 to 550 pounds.

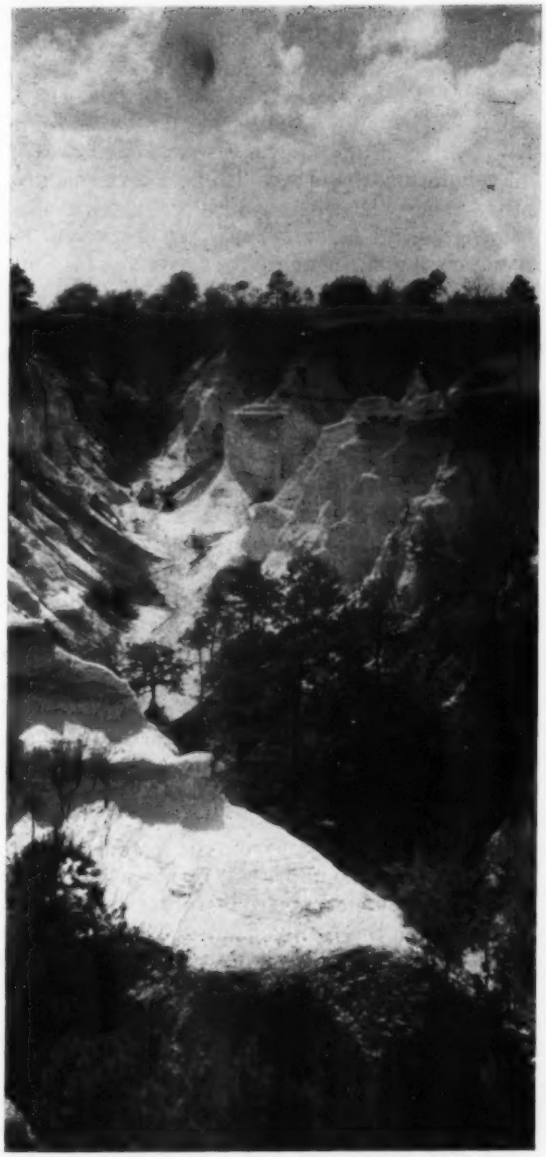
Charlie Ashford, extension conservationist, and C. B. Anders, state conservationist, made me most welcome in Mississippi. Charlie took me to Newton county at Decatur where we met the staff, including Joe Taylor, county agent, and O. L. Turman, work unit conservationist. The county supervisors have an unusual project. Several years ago they bought 40 acres of practically abandoned land for $900, the purpose being to develop it as a demonstration of proper land use and also for the production of scarce forage seeds. The farm is in charge of a committee from the board and the conservationists give it service the same as other farms. The tract, called "Green Acres," was all in forage crops. Seed was being harvested from sericea and crimson clover and additional returns came from grazing cattle on the land. Gross income in 1950 ran $3,500.

At Meridan, Miss., Bob Hoit, district conservationist, and E. E. Freeman, work unit conservationist, took me out to visit several farms where fescue and Ladino were being used with good results. The County of Lauderdale and the City of Meridan were much excited over the annual "calf scramble." This appeared to be a novel way of increasing use of purebred livestock and getting more interest in conservation. Breeders and businessmen contribute purebred beef bull calves of about 300 pounds weight. Boys of high school age are recruited from 4-H and vocational agriculture classes. A group of calves and twice as many boys are turned loose in a good sized ring. The boy who catches and halters a calf and leads it before the judges may keep that calf. Since several classes are provided, it all adds up to quite a show. The conservation angle is that the boy agrees to give the calf good care, including the improvement of 2 acres of pasture for its use, and to show the calf the following fall. The project had gone long enough, 4 years, that a steer sale of offspring from the first bulls distributed was held that year. Another event was the display of a family including bull, grade cow, and resulting calf. The calf scramble was made a real gala day, with big parade, steer sale, milking contest, steer riding, bulldogging, cakewalk, and dance.

In Alabama, with the aid of W. H. (Willie) Tucker, district conservationist at Demopolis, George P. Walthall, district conservationist at Montgomery, and Sam Doughty, extension conservationist, I got a picture of the change which is taking place in the South. I saw thousands of acres of land that had lost most of its topsoil through 100 years of cotton farming and which had been converted to good legume-grass pastures on which were fine herds of dairy and beef cattle. The possibility of having on the same field one set of plants which produces winter pasture and another set which comes on for summer pasture was very appealing to a man accustomed to the long feeding period during northern winters. Autauga County was beautiful with its thousands of acres of reseeding crimson clover in full bloom, and, of course, other counties from Mississippi to Georgia made much of this crop.

The high spot for me in Georgia, made possible by Ernest Thomas, extension conservationist, was a meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee with the supervisors of the Ocmulgee Soil Conservation District at Perry. The state committeemen are all farmers, but meeting with them was an advisory committee which includes the heads of the various cooperating

Note.—Photographs from the Alabama area mentioned by the author are used on our front cover this month and also in the center spread, "Grass Magic."



An arm of Rutledge Canyon in Stewart County, Ga. A sandy subsoil makes gullies hard to stop when once started.

agencies in the state. Present the day I was there was the director of Extension, State PMA chairman, State BAE representative, State conservationist, SCS, director of Research at the University of Georgia, State agricultural commissioner, head of Farm and Home Administration, and chairman of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. All present took an active part in the discussions, but final action on the items of business was, of course, left to the members of the state committee. Present to report the meeting, which included a tour of a well-handled farm nearby, was Miss Susan Myrick, reporter for a Macon paper and author of a third-grade reader, "Our Daily Bread."

After a good visit with Dr. T. S. Buie, regional director at Spartanburg, Wiley Hampton, of project plans division, and other members of the staff took me out to the Midway community in Cherokee County, the home community of E. C. McArthur, first president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The community comprises 4 square miles operated by 31 families, all but two of whom were at that time soil conservation district cooperators. We rode several miles with the land on both sides of the road terraced and strip cropped with good pastures and other good conservation practices. On one farm we could see from a high spot 18 of the 20 recommended practices for that area in use on the land.

The Cedar Creek forest and pasture project near Fulton, Mo., is a good example of land reclamation through the use of pasture grasses and legumes. This is an old L. U. project, comprising 13,000 acres which, when purchased in the thirties was badly washed and gullied. In fact, about half of it was abandoned. I saw the tract in 1941 and it was a sorry sight at that time. Technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, to whom the tract was assigned, leveled the gullies to some extent, gave a moderate soil treatment, and seeded a pasture mixture. The result is a fairly good pasture which is rented to neighboring farmers and produces 150 to 200 pounds of beef per acre. It could do better with more soil treatment, but it looks wonderful in comparison with gullied tracts outside the area which have had no attention.

In Clay County, Mo., I found grassland farming being carried out to an unusual extent for the Corn Belt. B. F. Morris, conservation aide at Liberty, Mo., said the district at that time had 250 cooperative agreements, which provided for an average of 75 percent of the land to be in grass. He took me to two farms, one of 580 acres and one of 800 acres, all of which were in forage crops, with wonderful fields of alfalfa-

brome-Ladino, orchard grass-alfalfa-Ladino, fescue-trefoil, and fescue-Ladino. Most of this land could have been cropped if the owner had so desired.

In the Little Sioux flood-prevention area in northwestern Iowa, a special educational effort has been made by employing assistant county agents in soil conservation to assist with the program. I was taken over a portion of the project by assistant county agent Kyle Peterson of Monona County, assisted by L. T. Larson and Robert Proctor, soil conservationists of the Sioux City flood control office. There is a double problem in this area—control of serious gullying in the uplands and siltation of drainage ditches and flooding of the lowlands. At that time the work was being carried on by watersheds. The objective of the over-all project committee was to have at least 70 percent of an area under district agreement and 70 percent of the recommended practices applied on the land before any special flood control work was started in a watershed. This rule had been set aside in some cases in order to use current appropriations. We inspected the work on several watersheds, which included shaping and seeding of waterways, tube and riser detention earth dams, and concrete chutes.

In New York, Hugh Wilson, extension conservationist, arranged for me to see the flood control work at East Aurora. Here an attempt is being made to cut down the silt load in the creeks back of Buffalo which are dumping 200,000 cubic yards of material into the harbor each year. District conservationist Ed Keil is in charge of the program, the number one effort of which is to get the farmers in the watershed to improve their soil management practices as much as possible. Much of the land is already in timber and pasture, but an attempt is being made to get better management on this and the remaining acreage. Special flood control construction work includes channel straightening and stream-bank improvement to reduce erosion. The outcome of this project will be interesting, as the army engineers have a direct check on results in the amount of silt that has to be removed from the Buffalo harbor.

At the Beltsville, Md., station, W. W. Steiner, nursery manager for the Soil Conservation Service, showed me his new "Natob" lespedeza bicolor which produces more seed and larger seed than the ordinary bicolor. The nursery is also producing a number of other plants which have uses in the conservation program. An interesting demonstration has recently been started which includes two tracts; one with fence rows, ditches, and stream banks kept clean of all vegetation, the other with field divisions and other areas planted to multiflora rose, bicolor lespedeza, and other shrubs. A check will be made on the effect of the two systems of management on wildlife population.

Potatoes dominate the farm landscape in Aroostook County, in northern Maine, as corn does in Illinois or wheat in Kansas. The extensive use of this cultivated crop creates conservation problems, particularly since the soil is not highly fertile and much of it is sloping. R. H. (Randy) West, work unit conservationist at Caribou, gave us a fine look at the area from Presque Isle to Van Buren. About 1,000 of the 3,000 farmers in the district were cooperators at that time. Good farmers run one-third to one-half of the land in potatoes with small grain and meadow as the remaining crops in the rotation. On sloping land, contouring or contour strip cropping is used. Farms near Van Buren laid out under the old French survey are long and narrow—perhaps 10 to 15 rods wide and a mile long. This interferes greatly with use of contour cultivation.

As you might expect from the instances given, I could not but be impressed by the wide variety of problems which confront workers in soil conservation in the United States. These problems must include those of the potato growers in northern Maine, the fruit men, dairymen, and other farmers of southern California, the orange growers and cattle raisers in Florida, the wheat growers in Washington, and of all the farmers in the country between. There must be answers to questions of land use, soil treatment, drainage, crop adaptation, rotations, control of water and wind erosion, pasture and range improvement, irrigation, forestry, water conservation, and wildlife. A matter of general concern whereever soils are being cultivated is that of organic matter and soil tilth. "We need more organic matter to put life into the soil" was a common statement in the Midwest, the irrigated sections of the Southwest, the Black Belt of Texas, and throughout the South, in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maine, and on into Canada.

On the Upper Whiteshield watershed, north fork of Red River, near Hammon, Okla. Drainage area 290 acres. All mechanical conservation measures have been applied; all land given conservation treatment.

But despite the immensity of the conservation job, it is most encouraging and heartening that in this country we have through the years, and especially during the last 20 years, accumulated a fair amount of the know-how needed to cope with the situation. At the same time we have assembled and developed in the Soil Conservation Service a staff of men who are competent to assist farmers in planning and applying the necessary conservation measures. As I met and associated with these men from place to place, I was struck by their serious sense of responsibility for helping save the soils of the country, and the feeling of pride which they had in showing good examples of farmer accomplishment. A brief visit to our neighboring countries convinced me that we are most fortunate to have a going program in soil conservation as it is carried on by the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and cooperating agencies. While Mexico has a national soil conservation service, it is not adequately financed nor well enough organized to deal properly with the tremendous educational and technical problems which that country presents. Canada, I was told, had no soil conservation program of national or provincial scope. This does not mean that nothing is being done in this field, but that there is no program comparable to ours.

Soil conservation districts constitute another bright spot in our soil conservation picture. I found them to vary from state to state in size, organization and to some extent in effectiveness. A common pattern is for the district to cover a single county. However, many districts, particularly in the West, are limited to a relatively small watershed and in the South I found what seemed to me unwieldly organizations covering five to nine counties. But regardless of size or shape, the districts as I observed them are, in general, the same independent, democratic type of organization. The governing bodies of these districts are made up of men who have a sincere interest in conservation and who are not only pushing the program publicly but are also using it on their own farms. I have always admired the Illinois directors for their willingness to serve and give time and effort to leadership in the movement. I was glad to find the same kind of men in the other states.

A few of the directors or supervisors stand out in my memory—

R. C. Longmire, supervisor of Garvin County, Okla., who operates a corn, alfalfa and cattle farm in the Washita Valley. He has interested the Paul's Valley Chamber of Commerce in giving $3,000 to $5,000 a year to the district for dinners, awards, field days, and other activities.

Neville Haynes, supervisor of the 4-million-acre district in Brewster County, Tex., the biggest county in the biggest state, is an enthusiastic booster and is not only doing a good job on

A renovated pasture of alfalfa-brome-Ladino on an 800-acre Clay County, Mo., farm which is all in grass. The Angus cattle are the main outlet for the forage.

Grain and other Midwest products move out to sea through the ship canal around Longue Sault Rapids in St. Lawrence River, Province of Quebec, Canada.

his range land but, as extra feed insurance, has 40 acres in alfalfa and mixed pasture under irrigation.

Dave Yarborough, supervisor in Autauga County, Ala., is reclaiming eroded land with kudzu and plantings of pine trees which promise to make a real return.

Henry Feene, of Freeborn County, Minn., has been the prime mover in a successful drainage project.

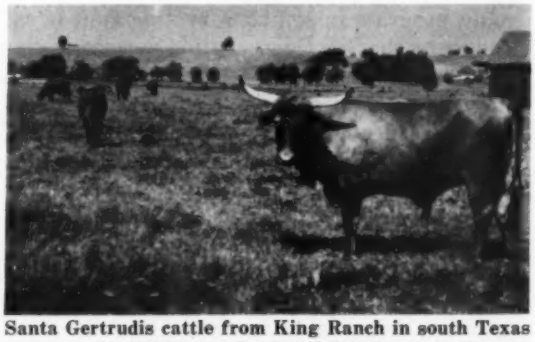
Hugh Chamberlin of Alleghany County, N. Y., says his work with the district has been a liberal education for him. That district is outstanding for its use and successful operation of a large amount of heavy machinery in serving the cooperators.

Tom Hardy, chairman of the board in Chester County, Pa., is also chairman of the Brandywine Valley Association and a member of the county extension board. He operates 1,000 acres of land, much of which is in grass for beef cattle.

Dennis F. Getchell, a member of the board in Central Arcostook County District in Maine, was in the Chicago meeting when the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts was formed. As an example for other farmers in that area, he has retired part of his farm land to pasture for his Hereford cow herd.

It is impossible in the space I have to summarize for you the volume of information on soil conservation accumulated during this six-month period. Among the more important conclusions, however, are the following:

1. The outstanding development in the field of soil and water conservation and management as I saw it is the decided trend toward the seeding of more grass and improvement of the present acreage of grassland. This trend was quite apparent wherever I went, although it was most striking in some areas, as in the old Cotton South.
2. There is general recognition by farmers and professional workers of the need for greater educational effort in the campaign to induce farmers to make the best use of



Santa Gertrudis cattle from King Ranch in south Texas graze on the 10,000-acre Buck and Doe Ranch in Chester County, Pa.

our soil and water resources. This is true not only in the United States, but also in Mexico and Canada. Many variations of the tried and true methods—lectures, demonstrations, field days, contests, charts, slides, motion pictures, publicity—are being used effectively.

3. Soil conservation districts operate most effectively where the farmer-directors or supervisors take the lead in the program and seek and secure cooperation and assistance from all available sources, including federal and state agencies, schools, churches, civic groups, and other organizations. Instances were observed where professional workers, particularly those of the Soil Conservation Service, were taking the lead rather than the farmer leaders. The happy situations, however, were those where the farmers were in the saddle directing the program.

4. Research stations are doing a fine job of working out practical answers to pressing problems of soil and water management. During the years we have accumulated a fair amount of know how, but we are ever in need of finding not only answers to new problems but new answers to old problems. We will be smart if we give the research stations more of the funds they need.

5. The effectiveness of the flood control projects I observed appeared to depend in large measure on the use by farmers of conservation measures on their land in the upper reaches of the watershed. Since this part of the program is entirely voluntary, intensive educational effort is essential in achieving the widespread acceptance of needed conservation practices. Careful attention should be given to this angle in the operation of flood-control programs.

The experiences I had while on this leave, the contacts I made along the route, and the information I secured on the various phases of soil conservation are proving most useful in my work since I returned. I can heartily recommend this means of taking a long look at soil conservation.

DISTRICT BOOK FUND.—The governing body of Washington's Whatcom County Soil Conservation District gives $25 to the county librarian to buy books on conservation and related agricultural subjects. The books, which are for both town and country people, are loaned out through Bellingham city and Whatcom county libraries and by bookmobile. A new addition to the "conservation shelf" was "Soil Conservation Districts in Action," by W. Roberts Parks.

Here are some of the books being bought with the district's library fund: "Let's Find Out," by Thron; "The Politics of Agriculture—Soil Conservation and the Struggle for Power in Rural America," by Hardin; "The Dammed Missouri Valley," by Baumhoff; "Soil Development," by Faulkner; "Good Land from Poor Soil," by Hewitt, and "Our Garden Soils," by Kellogg.

Alfred R. Draig, assistant county librarian, also loans out an average of two soil conservation films a month. He says films are in demand from schools and groups of all kinds.

He also has a complete line of booklets, government bulletins, and pamphlets for general distribution.

GOOD BUSINESS FOR BOTH.—How Waupaca County, Wis., and the Waupaca Soil Conservation District teamed up in a mutually profitable enterprise was told recently by a banker who played a leading role. It began when banker Joseph Hartz got "dragged into" a county tour to arouse businessmen to the importance of soil conservation. "All I knew about it," said Hartz, "was that 65 percent of the business of our Manawa bank was with farmers. A banker likes farmers who make money."

The upshot of the tour was to convince and convert Hartz. He called in other bankers, arranged a goodwill banquet for the county board, secured a top-notch speaker. As a result, the board appropriated $15,000 for a highway grader that could be used for soil conservation work.

A schedule of fees was devised, and the farmers paid the operator. The township chairman approved the jobs. After seeing how the first grader was paying for itself and yet was available for considerable highway work and snow removal, the county purchased two more machines with soil conservation work getting top priority.

SOFT BED SAVED JOHN.—John Temple was doing some work on a tractor in a freshly plowed field on his farm in the Atascosa (Tex.) County Soil Conservation District near Pleasanton. Suddenly the tractor took off. The rear wheel ran over Temple's body its entire length, from foot to forehead.

Temple picked himself up, brushed off the dirt, and went on with his business. He said later: "If that field hadn't been in Hubam clover for three consecutive years, I might have been killed. The soil was so mellow, however, that the tractor pressed me into the soft ground. I was scarcely bruised."

Grass Magic

PICTURE STORY
BY
Hermann Postlethwaite

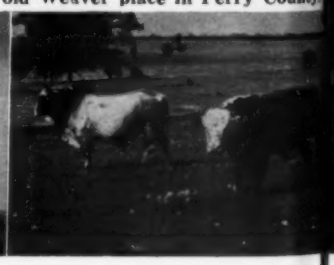
P. G. Compton and Caley Peas.

THIRTY-FIVE years ago Alabama's Black Belt was almost entirely white. The Belt was devoted to a single crop, cotton, grown in straight rows. The land eventually lost its good soil and its vitality. But today the Black Belt is green, and again prosperous. It is a vast ten-county empire of perennial grasses, reseeding legumes, dairy and beef cattle—another miracle of the new techniques.

A. D. Holmes, Jr. and Technician Tucker examine pasture. The mail brings Holmes a fat milk check.

Registered Herefords graze white dutch and dallis grass on farm of L. Chatterton, Greensboro, Ala.

Home of Sheldon Sheffield. All 3,438 acres are in grass.



White dutch and dallis grass on the old Weaver place in Perry County.

ndoned cotton gin in Marengo County—reminder of old era.

The new order: 27 farmers own this milk-receiving station.

This plant converts 40,000 pounds of milk into cheese each day.

Legumes make honey, and bees needed for good seed production.

Herefords on white dutch and dallis grass, farm of Mrs. Emma Meadows. Faunsdale. Ala.

Once in row crops, now in pasture, this creek bottom land is now high in beef production.

Jerseys graze on Caley Peas and Johnson grass on farm of Jim Russell, Gaunsdale, Ala.

Fifteen hundred acres support 700 mature animals and 200 calves on Compton farm.

Eighty acres of legume-grass pasture support 60 Jersey milk cows on Holmes' farm

DISTRICT PROFILE

HON. HOWARD S. MILLER of KANSAS

HOWARD S. MILLER, whose home is near Hiawatha, Kans., started out to be a lawyer, but went back to the farm. Now he has taken to the House of Representatives at Washington the intimate knowledge of soil and water conservation that has been gained from actually working with it. He put the conservation measures on his farm himself.

He has been in the Brown County Soil Conservation District for over a decade. He has established a complete conservation plan on the 480-acre farm he bought in 1943, and is well along with the job on 160 acres he bought later. He believes he has more miles of terraces than anyone else in his soil conservation district.

When the 1952 Goodyear contest was ended last June 30, the Brown County Soil Conservation District was the Kansas winner. And who was one of the three outstanding conservation farmers selected to go with the district supervisors on the trip to Goodyear farms in Arizona, which was the winners' award? You guessed it —Howard Miller. So, early in December, he spent a week with district supervisors and outstanding conservation farmers from a large part of the United States.

Now that he has gone to Washington, his son, Wendell, has left the post of county attorney at Falls City, Nebr., to operate the farm. "Does he have the same ideas about conservation as I have?" Miller repeated a question. "Well, if he didn't he'd not be operating the farm."

Born in Pennsylvania, Miller has spent 70 of his 73 years in Brown county. He was reared on his father's farm, and after high school went to the University of Nebraska from which he was graduated in law.

"I never practiced law, however," he said, "because soon after I got my degree, my father died. Mother was left with six minor children and a mortgage on the farm. I came back to the farm and operated it until I bought this place in 1943."

There are three Miller children—Wendell, Russell, who is a dentist at Hiawatha, and a daughter, Mrs. Ernest Holnbaum of Hiawatha, who is the congressman's hostess in Washington. Mrs. Miller died in 1948.

The land he bought in 1943 is Mrs. Miller's home place, part of which had been homesteaded by her grandfather and the rest purchased. Thus, this land has been in the same family since it was settled. He is the only one to operate it who was not a direct descendant of the pioneer. Now one of the great-grandsons is on the farm.

"Those people were good operators," Congressman Miller says. "They took care of the land. What that meant can be seen now. Half of the 160 acres that I added to the farm should be the best 80 on the place, but it isn't. It looked good on the surface, but when we built terraces we found how thin the topsoil had become.

"We farm this 80 along with the original farm and do not harvest the two areas separately, but you can notice the difference. Production on the 80 is visibly below that on the other land, which has quite a bit deeper topsoil.

"Of course, some soil was lost from the original farm. You don't farm sloping land like this without terraces without losing soil, but you don't lose so much if you take care of the land."

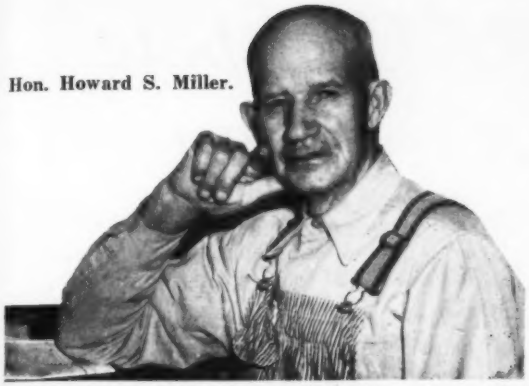
Congressman Miller, working alone, started long ago to try to halt erosion on his home farm. But, he began at the wrong place, at the lower part of the slope.

"I became a champion ditch filler," he comments. "I'd fill up ditches, and they would wash out again. I didn't realize that by the time the water reached the lower part of the slope, it had already done its damage."

He started cooperation with the Brown County Soil Conservation District soon after it was organized in 1940. But he hardly got under way with his conservation plan before the home farm was sold and he bought the present place.

This farm was already under cooperation with the district, and Mrs. Miller's brother with help from the Soil Conservation Service had developed a conservation plan. Contour farming had been started. The Congressman began to put his conservation plan on the land as soon as he acquired it. When he bought the additional 160 acres he got busy with a conservation plan here, too.

Today the Miller farm has 30 miles of terraces, 20 acres of grassed waterways, and some



Hon. Howard S. Miller.

farm ponds. All farming operations are on the contour. A bromegrass-alfalfa mixture has been worked into the rotation. Tillage is done with chisel-type machines and disks in order to keep stubble at or near the surface. Two drop-inlet structures have been built to let water down from the waterways into a stream channel.

"It is somewhat more difficult to farm this way," he concedes, "but the returns and the saving of soil make the effort well worth while. The newer equipment makes the job easier. And, as one learns to farm this way, he picks up little tricks that smooth things out. I know, for example, that I learned the knack of taking care of point rows from a hired man who had learned it somewhere else.

He feels that people have been slow to realize the amounts of soil they are losing. One can see little following a storm. But when the rain actually is falling, what happens is inescapable. He knows from experience. From a hired man he learned that a fireman's hat, added to his other rainy-day clothes, could make working in the rain no problem; water didn't run down his neck.

"So I got such a hat shortly after I bought this farm," the Congressman recalls with a chuckle. "Then, when there was a hard rain while the wheat was still small, I went out. I saw water and soil getting away fast. Right then I made up my mind to terrace the land as rapidly as possible."

It was only a short step from his experiences on his own farm to the vision of watershed treatment. Miller is chairman of the Walnut Creek Watershed Association. After going through the back-breaking task of trying to control erosion damage at the bottom of the slope, he realized that he must start at the top. He has seen "dry ditches" develop where there were no gullies, culverts replace bridges, and bridges replace bigger ones.

"We now have 25- and 30-foot bridges where there previously were two-plank culverts," he says. "I had the experience during my teens of helping replace with four-plank culverts some of the two-plank culverts that had become too small.

"Right beside this farm is a 20-foot bridge that was installed after a 24-inch culvert was washed out—washed right down onto my land. That pipe is now the outlet for one of my ponds."

He feels that it is important on small watersheds to establish complete treatment, both structures and vegetative and cultural measures in order to learn their effects on water flow.

"We can see some effects on our own land," he said. "Water from part of this farm passes through a culvert in the road. Formerly the culvert worked to full capacity. Now it rarely runs half full.

"The flow of water definitely has been reduced, but we don't know how much of the reduction results from more water soaking into the ground because of conservation and how much results from a slower rate of runoff. Accurate measurements are needed badly."

By conservation treatment of the land, Congressman Miller means treatment according to its needs. Single practices, he contends, will not bring the desired results on sloping land. Even on a single farm, not all fields can be treated alike.

Miller believes that soil conservation and control of water are inseparable problems and must be handled jointly. He believes in beginning operations where the rain falls. He is thoroughly convinced that we cannot know what measures are necessary and practical on the main streams and rivers until proper measures have been taken on the land where the rain falls and where the greater amount of damage is done.

"It is my opinion," he concludes, "that the greater part of flood damage occurs within one-half mile of where the raindrops fall. It is essential that we get the soil and water conservation job done, for the soil we are letting wash away can never be replaced."

—HAROLD J. SWAN

Now Districts Compete Throughout Nation

Big western hats—and a radio interview.

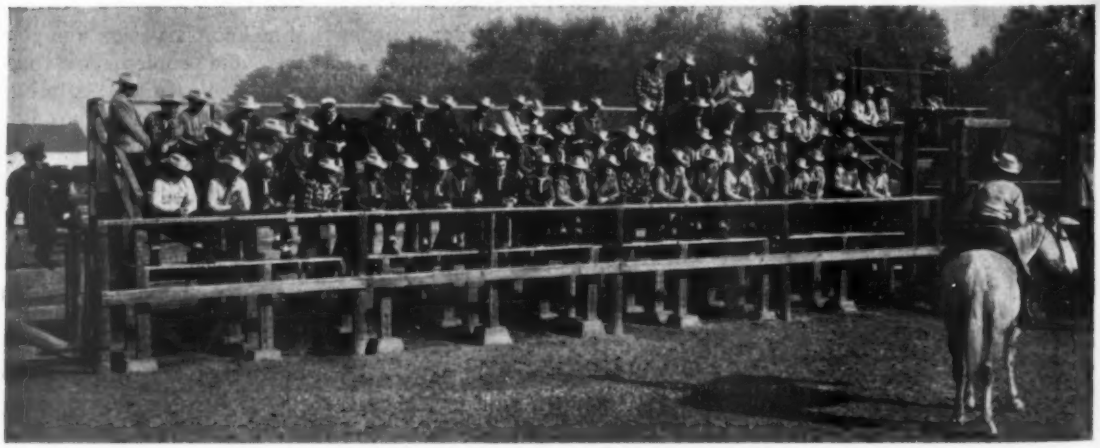
EXPANSION of the Goodyear Soil Conservation Awards program to a country-wide basis has been announced by A. G. Morrill, director of the progran.

Speaking to a banquet audience attending the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts' seventh annual meeting, Morrill stated that his company was following the lead of increased interest in soil conservation as indicated in President Eisenhower's first state of the union message to Congress.

The national awards program, starting July 1, is intended to inspire voluntary soil conservation district workers, farmers and ranchers to even greater efforts to preserve the nation's topsoil.

Members of the advisory committee are Dr. Robert M. Salter, chief of Soil Conservation Service, chairman; C. M. Ferguson, director of extension, Department of Agriculture; Waters S. Davis, Jr., president of National Association of Soil Conservation Districts; Wendell R. Tascher, extension soil conservationist, Department of Agriculture; and H. Wayne Pritchard, executive secretary, Soil Conservation Society of America.

Districts are rated for a 10-month contest period by means of a score sheet covering district governing-body activity in the following categories: administration; conservation education, planning and application (actual accomplishments on the land); organization and activities of committees to assist district govern-



Watching the rodeo in a proper western setting.

Jovial interlude on a bus trip.

Chow line in Arizona.

An apprentice farm plan is explained.

ing body; and general district program development and progress.

Goodyear has sponsored a soil conservation awards program on a regional basis in 17 states for the past 6 years. The new competition will be patterned after the old with 100 persons from all 48 states eligible for grand award vacation trips to the Wigwam Inn, on Goodyear Farms at Litchfield Park, Ariz., in December 1954.

All organized soil conservation districts in the United States are eligible to compete. One member of each winning district and the top cooperating farmer or rancher named by the district will make the vacation trip to Arizona.

Non-partisan judging committees, selected from outstanding exponents of soil conservation in the various states, will select winning districts on a point system of rating actual accomplishment.

Winners will be announced at the seven regular regional meetings of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Plaques will be awarded at these conventions to the first and second place winners from the competing units.

Actual competition will be over a 10-month period with 2 months for judging. State soil conservation districts will compete with each

Modern riders of the purple sage.

other for first and second place awards with the following exceptions:

Vermont and New Hampshire will compete as one unit. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts will make up another unit. Delaware and New Jersey districts will compete together for the grand award.

The soil conservation districts of Texas will be divided into three competing units and the soil conservation districts of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska will be split into two competing units each.

Certificates of meritorious achievement will be given to a thousand outstanding supervisors and cooperators after the close of the contest year on April 30, 1954.

The Wigwam, where the winners stay.

Montana Recovery

IN1938 while teaching in a rural high school in Montana, George C. Borchers contracted "ranch fever." To alleviate the pains of this disease, he moved on to a piece of land, a ranch near Frenchtown, one of Montana's oldest white settlements.

There was water here and the water was "free." But George found that free water didn't mean free irrigation. The land was rough; it took a good 10-hour day for a man to irrigate 3 acres. At that rate it would take all summer to get over the 160 acres for which he had water. Trying to get the land ready for irrigation took so long that George was always late getting his crops planted. This delayed harvesting and there was danger of frost.

After about 5 years of such struggle George began to despair, but he still wanted to stay on the land. He knew something had to be done.

With technical assistance provided by the Soil Conservation Service through the soil conservation district, and financial assistance through the Agricultural Conservation Program, he undertook a complete conservation program. This included leveling so that the land could be properly irrigated, a complete change in the irrigation system, proper drainage, clearing some of the tract, and range management.

That was in 1945. As a result of these measures, he has doubled the yield of hay and forage, and increased grain yields about 50 percent.

By planting time in 1952 George had finished leveling all of his irrigated land. About 80 acres was permanently in border dikes. As illustrative of what this means, one hired man and a 14-year-old boy irrigated 62 acres of hay and grain in 3 days. There was not a burned-out or drowned-out spot in the entire 62 acres.

Another conservation problem caused trouble. A creek ran diagonally across the property, and in the past, each spring it would decide to take a new course. This meant that more land was being cut away right along. With SCS advice and engineering, and assistance from the ACP, this stream was brought under control with riprap and by strengthening the channel.

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.—Roy J. Turner, former Governor of Oklahoma, is shown receiving an award from L. L. "Red" Males, chairman of the Lay Conservationist Awards Committee of the Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In addition to being a member of the governing body of the Upper Washita Soil Conservation District, Males also is president of the Oklahoma Bankers Association. He lives at Cheyenne, Okla., and is president of the Security State Bank there.

Both of these gentlemen are enthusiastic supporters of watershed treatment for flood prevention. Males is the man who "sparkplugged" the work on Sandstone Creek and makes talks throughout the state in behalf of upstream flood prevention. He participated in the Washington conference on flood prevention.

Governor Turner is a district cooperator who has done an outstanding job of conservation on his nationally famous ranch near Sulphur, Okla. He also has given generously of his time, talents and money to further the work of soil conservation districts and upstream flood prevention.

The presentation of awards to lay conservationists was a feature of the annual meeting of Oklahoma's Soil Conservation Districts in January. Three hundred twenty district supervisors, representing 75 of Oklahoma's soil conservation districts, attended. State legislators and friends of districts swelled attendance to more than 400 during the luncheon program, when talks were made by Senator Raymond, president pro tempore of the Senate, and James C. Nance, speaker of the House. Claude V. Thompson, Ada, president of the Oklahoma association, presided.

Other Oklahomans who won awards this year were—Mrs. John O'Neill, Marshall, Director of Rural Life, Oklahoma Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women; Ferdie Deering, Oklahoma City, editor of "The Farmer Stockman;" Bruce Eagon, Tulsa, Farm Program Director, KOTV (TV only).

A total of 44 business and professional men have been thus recognized for outstanding service to the soil conservation district movement.

—HARRY M. CHAMBERS

Tops In '52!

Enviable records in soil and water conservation are made by the eight National 4-H Club winners.

By G. L. NOBLE

THIS is the tenth anniversary year of the National 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Awards Program.

More than 1,300,000 club members have received training in the program since its inception in 1944. What some of these youthful conservationists have accomplished in stopping erosion of valuable top soil has helped influence their elders to do likewise.

Some idea of the achievements of members taking active part in this project may be gained from the records of the eight national winners in the 1952 program. Each of these top winners received a $300 college scholarship from The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, donor of awards in this program since its beginning. They also received, together with eight other sectional winners, all-expense trips to the 1952 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Additional awards are a $25 Defense Bond to the state winner in the junior division, and in the demonstrations phase the state-winning individual and the two members of the state-winning team each receives a fountain pen and pencil set.

At his company's breakfast for all 4-H delegates to the 1952 Club Congress, vice president, Raymond C. Firestone, said: "Naturally, we have a special pride in our 16 (sectional and national) winners in the National 4-H Soil and Water Conservation program, and, while we are proud of them as winners, I want them to know that we think of them as having accomplished much more than just winning a contest. In winning, they were upholding a great law—a law that has been basic to man's welfare and his existence down through the ages. This is the law which bids us to preserve, and forbids us to waste, that which has been given us by divine providence—namely, our land."

Firestone was elected to the board of directors of the national Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.

Brief outlines of the winners' records:

Eddie M. Folds, 18, of Granite Hill, Ga., started his soil conservation program by rebuilding a worn-out 400-acre farm with the aid of his parents, county agent and soil conservation technician. The program included test plots of lespedeza and crimson clover. First big strike from his soil-building work came in his fourth 4-H year when he was named district and state winner in his grazing project, and received a $200 cash award for building check dams and terraces. That year he also took second in the district cotton contest. In 1950 he was state champion in 4-H field crops. During last summer's drought he had a month's kudzu grazing to carry over his 17 head of livestock.

Jack L. Robinson, 18, of Middletown, Ind., and his father have completely covered their 100-acre farm with soil and water conservation practices, which have more than doubled crop and grass yields. This, in turn, has made it possible to raise and fatten about 300 hogs a year from the 35 acres of corn grown. The grass lands also support a herd of 32 registered Herefords.

Ronald Elkins, 16, of Farmington, N. Mex., tackled the restoration of 15 acres of abandoned land his parents had bought with 143 acres lying between two rivers. The tract had grown up with cottonwoods and willows and become waterlogged with seepage. Using a bulldozer, carry-all and leveler, Ronald, with the help of his father and a brother, cleared and drained the land, making their own concrete tile. When the job was done, soil tests were made and grass

Note.—The author is director National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Inc., Chicago, Ill.

Raymond C. Firestone (center) watches a demonstration by the 1952 winners of the soil-saving contest. Allene Ogan, only 4-H Club girl ever to win a sectional soil conservation award, holds the pitcher. Others, left to right, are Eddie M. Folds, Jack L. Robinson, Ronald Elkins, Milton W. Dufel, James William Harris, Paul M. Saunders, Bruce J. Gillin ,and Jack Clouse.

slowly established on the entire acreage, which now provides grazing for a flock of 35 Hampshire sheep and a number of cattle.

Milton W. Dufel, 19, of Fonda, N. Y., took his first step on his father's 224-acre farm when he laid 2,000 feet of drain tile and cut some open ditches with his own equipment. It made possible working wet spots. He was helped in the planning by the district conservation office. Milton then plowed up a permanent pasture which had been grazed for 30 years without improvement, and planted a cover crop of rye, preliminary to fertilizing and reseeding. In 1951 the father-son team was named champion at the county crop show for its year-around program of liming, fertilizing, drainage and crop rotation. In 1951 a farm pond was built and stocked with fish. A shrub border on the windward side of the farm was planted, and more than 1,600 trees have been set out in a 4-year program of reforestation.

James W. Harris, 19, of Greenville, N. C., seeded 10 acres of his family's 100-acre farm to permanent pasture in 1949 to support their 16 cattle. To prevent overgrazing, 21 more acres were seeded, this time with ladino clover and fescue grass. A 3-year crop rotation was laid out, and a program for raising hogs adopted which depends upon the use of new fields each year for farrowing and grazing, to prevent disease. Eight acres of woodland were cleared to provide new land for tobacco. Since the fields

are subject to drying out, an irrigation system which draws water from a canal running through the farm, was set up at a cost of $2,500.

Year by year, starting in 1946, Bruce J. Gillin, 18, of Porter, Okla., and his father labored to restore a 200-acre upland prairie farm they bought 8 years ago. They built terraces, limed and leveled pasture and crop land, mowed weeds and applied fertilizer. Several ponds were dug, and dams sodded. Gullies were filled. In 1950, remaining idle land was converted into a refuge for wildlife. Oats and vetches were grown to catch fertility and keep soil from washing in winter. This year their corn showed the value of rotation. It had followed clover and stayed green longer, the ears were larger and the yield above the local average.

Paul M. Saunders, 19, Arrington, Va., has worked with his father to revamp the family's 563-acre farm, to make every part contribute maximum income. As the pair gained experience, they set a goal to have orchards, timber land and pastures on hills and crops on the bottoms, which skirt a river. Improvements which have come from the plan are a herd of registered Angus cattle on good pastures where mediocre cattle and pastures had existed; corn yields of 115 bushels per acre contrasted to 50; poultry and garden products in abundance; the planting of some 1,100 boxwood and other select ornamentals in a nursery for landscaping, the purchase of three tractors, and net profits of $7,000. These changes were achieved by the usual soil saving practices of adapting fence lines to contour stripping, closing gullies, building check dams, removing forest areas from grazing and liming the land, fertilizing and reseeding lands suited to grazing with legumes and grasses.

Jack Clouse, 21, and his father of Taylor, Wis., have radically changed the face of the hilly, gullied 200-acre farm bought in 1946. With the aid of the county agent and soil conservationist, the pair changed fields to conform better to the nature of the land, filled gullies, built terraces, applied lime and fertilizers and plowed deep and thoroughly. Increased income has been put into improvements. Jack says soil conservation is his best 4-H project, and it has kept him enrolled until the age limit for 4-H Club Work.

Orchard Revives

By A. G. CARNS

TWO young El Dorado County, Calif., pear growers, Kenneth and Angus Sloan, have worked out a cure for their badly eroded land.

When the Sloans took over their 37-acre hillside orchard in 1946, silt was piled up to the crotch of many low-lying trees. Tap roots were laid bare, and trees were dried out. Gullies lined the slopes and crop yields were down.

For years water had been pumped to a high point in the orchard, and then to cross ditches. From the ditches it ran through downhill furrows to trees. Each time the water poured down the furrows, more and more soil washed away.

With the help of SCS technicians working with the Central El Dorado Soil Conservation District, the Sloans have increased production and improved the quality of their fruit.

"The technicians recommended sprinklers and a permanent cover crop on some 17 acres of our sloping and eroded orchard, says Kenneth. "They also told us we needed a winter cover crop on our flat land at the top of the slope. We started to work.

"First, we seeded white clover, Kentucky bluegrass, and redtop on the orchard slope. Next we planted the flat upper field to an annual crop of 30 pounds of barley, 30 pounds of vetch, and 4 pounds of sub clover.

"We also installed sprinklers—under-tree type—on the steep slope, and established ditches and furrows on the flat upland."

The Sloans drilled both the flat and sloping orchard areas in May 1946, after lightly disking and rolling, to lay a good seedbed. The seedings were made after spring rains and were sprinkler-irrigated so that the cover crops would get started before the fall rains came. Both seedings were fertilized with nitrogen and superphosphate at the time of drilling.

Note.—The author is work unit conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Placerville, Calif.

Kenneth Sloan and son in orchard with cover crop.

The Sloans' cover crops and watering systems worked out so well that they seeded and improved another 10-acre area the same way.

What have been the results of these practices after 6 years?

First, instead of losing from one-fourth to one-half of the trees, nearly all of them were saved and are producing fruit.

Second, the soil has been stabilized and is not washing down the slopes as it did in the winter of 1945, when the barnyard at the foot of the orchard received a foot of washed-in soil.

Third, the deep rills and gullies have been replaced by grass, leaves, and sod, so that farming operations are easier and less expensive.

Fourth, the soil, formerly barren of organic matter and low in fertility, now has humus and is productive.

Fifth, the production of pears has increased 50 percent over the 1945 yield, and the quality of the fruit is better.

CONSERVATION ON PRISON FARM.—A 17,817-foot, $4,389 tile drainage job done on 65 acres of cropland by the Greenbrier (W. Va.) Soil Conservation District, at the Alderson Federal Prison for Women, is becoming an important factor in putting the 497-acre farm on a paying basis.

This farm had been in the red for many years largely because of single-cropping and excessive wetness. The drainage job—biggest ever undertaken in Summers County—is designed to provide more food and better food for institutional use, as well as more and better feed for livestock. Part of the production will go to other federal prisons.

Farm Manager Glen Mentor launched a variety of improvements when he took over in April 1952. He had had 10 years of successful farming experience and among other things, he is protecting and improving cropland with seedings of cover crops and alfalfa. Previously the land was planted to corn and left bare between crop seasons. Under the new system it will be used for vegetables, grass, grain and any other crops needed at the institution, and never left bare over winter. Manager Mentor and Edward Smith, SCS technician assisting the district, already note a marked improvement in quality and quantity of the produce.

CORN YIELDS REFLECT CONSERVATION.—John Wable, manager of a prison farm, won the 1952 Polk County (Iowa) Soil Conservation District contour corn yield contest with a yield of 161 bushels per acre. Of 36 contestants completing the contest, 29 had yields of 125 per acre with no single yield less than 100 bushels.

What Our District Has Meant To Us

By Mrs. J. B. MOSELEY

ONE of the worst fears I had when I was a girl was walking on a 10 or 12 inch plank across a gully 9 or 10 feet deep and about 9 feet wide with a bucket of milk in each hand. I had to cross this gully each morning and night to get to the cow pen.

After each big rain thousands of gallons of water came roaring down this and other gullies on our farm here in Brunswick County, Va. Of course, it carried the topsoil on with it. When these big rains came, we would have to haul corn stalks, wheat straw, and pine tags, and cut down pine bushes, to fill in and try to stop the water that washed over the various fields.

Often we hear of neighbors arguing, even not speaking for years, because one thinks the other has put up a fence a few feet over the line; and yet these same people go on year after year seeing ton after ton of their best topsoil carried down the gullies and finally emptied into the sea.

For 22 years after I was married we farmed, raising cotton, corn, and peanuts, and each year watching our land wash away. Our farm is hilly and many a day we hauled rocks, straw, and even logs to stop washes caused by ditches breaking over during heavy rains, but after each rain the washes came back. Our ditches were layed off with too much fall and lack of "know-how."

About five years ago we requested assistance from our soil conservation district and the local Soil Conservation Service man came by to see us. Well, like so many others through ignorance we said, "There's another fellow getting paid to ride around and do nothing." But, just 5 short years later we cannot find words to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for all that soil conservation has meant to us and to our community in general.

One of the greatest problems that our soil conservation district had was to make us farmers see that we were not using each acre of land in the best way. We plowed and cultivated these hills regardless of how steep they were, and we ran our rows many times straight up and down the hill, which helped to speed our soil on to the sea. Our district, through educational meetings and other means of disseminating information, had to work awfully hard to put us in a mood to listen to their advice in order to help ourselves.

What were 5 years ago red galls and gullies on our farm, as well as on others in the community, are now rolling hills and fields lying smooth and green, growing ladino clover and orchard grass, alfalfa and lespedeza, or terraced and strip cropped fields now growing corn and wheat.

Grazing contentedly on these fields are 22 head of registered and grade Jersey and Guernsey cows, where our 16-year-old son is riding a horse.

Our soil conservation district has shown us many ways of improving our land by testing the soil, strip cropping, terracing, and in general employing better land use. In September of this year the conservationist assisted us in constructing a 1-acre farm pond and will also assist us in stocking this pond with fish. The pond has already been a great help in supplying drinking water for the cattle during the awful drought we had this fall. We are looking forward to fishing and boating for recreation and having fish to put into our 16-cubic-foot home freezer.

During the past five years through hard work, long hours, and the efficient help of our soil conservation district in keeping our soil at home where it belongs, we have been able to modernize completely our 7-room farm home, buy a new tractor equipped with turn plow, tillage plow, disc and mower, build a new 10-cow Grade-A dairy barn, get milking machines, and raise all our hay and grain with only the help of our 16-year-old son.

Soil conservation is the backbone of our farm. I believe our farm will prove to anyone that you don't have to wait a life time to cash in on conservation farming.

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